

READING

1. Read the text carefully and select the correct option.

Hot topic: THE ENVIRONMENT

This week, four experts share with us what they think the key challenges for the world's environment will be in the future. As always, we are curious to get our readers' reactions. So tell us what you think.



1 Endangered species

The black rhino in Africa is in serious danger of becoming extinct. This is because some people think rhino horn has special powers. They pay enormous sums of money for it. So people kill rhinos and sell their horns. Tigers are in serious danger, too. At the beginning of the 20th century, there were about 100,000 tigers. Now there are only about 3,000 left. In a few years' time, there might not be any tigers left at all! These are just two examples. Many other animals are endangered, too. Some of them may be gone forever very soon.
Joc Wagner, Cape Town

2 Overfishing

It's not looking good for the fish population. Certain species are in danger, and there aren't many of them in the sea where fishermen usually go. Fishing ships are therefore going further and further out into the oceans. They try to get the rare species because they can get better prices for them. If things go on like this, 40 years from now there won't be any fish left in the seas. It's not too late yet, but it may be soon. The oceans need much stricter laws and a fishing industry that keeps to them.
Rick Cavendish, San Diego

3 Deforestation

About 30% of the world's land is still covered with forests. But every year, we lose areas as big as the country of Panama. Big companies earn millions from producing wood, paper and cardboard from the trees. Forests are also cut down to make more space for growing crops such as soya or creating huge cattle farms. The consequences of deforestation are dramatic and partly responsible for climate change. About 70% of the world's land animals and plants live in forests. If we lose the forests, we will lose millions of species.
Alejandro Silvas, Quito

4 Rising levels of sea water

Over the last 20 years or so, sea water temperatures have been going up. As a consequence, the ice caps around the poles have started to melt, and sea levels have started to rise. If this doesn't stop, the water will rise further and may flood many islands. Then some countries like the Maldives won't be there any more. There is also a danger that some huge low-lying coastal cities might end up below the sea. It's hard to imagine what the consequences of such changes might be.
Gajkaran Sanu, New Delhi

- Black rhinos are far more endangered than tigers. True False
- At the beginning of the last century there were ten times more tigers than now. True False
- The fishing industry gets more money for fish that are in danger than for the ones that are not. True False
- The fishing laws are very strict, and the fishing industry keeps to them. True False
- Financial interests play a big role in deforestation. True False

2. What can you conclude out of the text?

LISTENING

1. Listen and answer the questions.

- 1 What's the project 'Incredible Edible' all about?
- 2 Who takes part in the project?
- 3 Who had the idea?
- 4 How did they get the idea?
- 5 How did people react?

2. Do you think the experiment will last? Why or why not? Would you like to see a similar experiment in your town or neighborhood?

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SPEAKING

PET SPEAKING PART 4- Create an audio of 2 min and 30 seconds answering the following questions:

- **What do you do when you want to relax? (Why?)**
- **Do you prefer to relax with friends or alone? (Why?)**
- **Is it important to do exercise in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)**
- **Is it useful to learn new skills in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)**
- **Do you think people spend too much time working/studying these days? (Why?/Why not?)**